



## The Oregonian.

PORTLAND WEDNESDAY MARCH 30, 1887.

## FARMERS PROSPECTUS.

It is doubted that during the last three years the farmers of Oregon have materially reduced their aggregate indebtedness. Most kinds of farm produce have borne low prices, but there has been better management than ever before. Economic methods have been pursued with steady and intelligent purpose. Industry has been general, and on the whole, through reduction of debts, accumulation of surplus and formation of new funds, the most of our agriculturists, before financial prosperity have been had, than heretofore have existed. This is one of a great class of facts that promise improvement for the country.

The department of agriculture at Washington has been making special investigation of the indebtedness of farmers in some of principal agricultural states. It is found that in Illinois 33 per cent of its farmers are in debt, largely for lands on which partial payment has been made. The debts are secured by mortgages on which from 6 to 8 per cent interest is paid. Many of the loans are held by Eastern capital, though there is a good deal of indebtedness to manufacturers of farm machinery and local money lenders. In Indiana and Michigan substantially the same conditions are presented, while in Kansas the debts are lighter. It is reported that in that last named state less than 50 per cent of the farms are mortgaged, and 30 per cent of the farmers are in debt beyond the value of their credits. On the whole, however, the process of liquidation is going on in all these states, and farms are gradually increasing in number and decreasing in size.

In comparison with the statement furnished by the report, the condition and prospects of the farmers of Oregon certainly are not favorable. It is believed that, for the first time in the history of Oregon, foundations are being laid in economy and thrift for advance—a sound basis of prosperity than has hitherto been known.

## HISTORY IN THE SCHOOLS.

By the superintendent of our city schools Tarr O'Conor is assured that there is a desire and a love of these schools of that branch of history that relates to the great rebellion. On the contrary, this important epoch of our history receives due attention, both through text-book instruction and topical teaching by oral methods. Barnes' "History of the United States" is the book in use, and in its plan the "Civil Epoch" is devoted to the civil war and the events that followed it.

In a history whose contents must be compressed within the limits of a school book, only an outline can be given, but the summary shown us by the superintendent of city schools will find an outline that includes all the leading events of the great struggle. Minor incidents are necessarily omitted.

The superintendent also states that so far as he knows there has been no objection to pursuance of the plan of his school board in the schools that includes the history of the rebellion. And certainly there ought to be none anywhere. We are getting far enough away from those exec time to be fairly free from partisanship in dealing with the cause, and the consequences of the great struggle.

With the history of events, naturally given, it is able to take issue. But even they who were on the losing side in the great american conflict, and they who sympathized with them, now profess to be glad it resulted as it did, and even if they were not glad, it would be ludicrous on their part to raise a protest against the historical record. On the other hand, complaint that such protest is made by an "unconscionable person" who would "own up" as being as notorious as the complaint reported by Sydney Smith, that some fellow had "spoken disrespectfully of the equator."

## THE HOTEL PROPOSITION.

Whenever the necessity for a hotel in keeping with the size and pretensions of Portland is urged, the hotel keepers of the city rise as one man in protest. They point out always that there is abundant room for all comers in the various hotels here and, by arrays of figures, as sum to stand for facts, support the assertion that a first-class hotel could not be made to pay. The motives of all this is the moral, social, self-protection and the hotel men are reasonably blamed. But, after all, the fact remains that we have not a hotel above the grade of third-class, that this fact is a subject of criticism with all visitors and that it is a standing discredit to the city.

The hotel keepers allege that "an elegant and finely-appointed hotel cannot be made to pay on the prices now charged by our best houses," and by way of illustration they point out that the "magnificent structure at Tacoma is being supported by the Tacoma Land company at an annual expense of \$9000 or \$10,000." This is a most shabby argument and it is urged by the hotel men that they have nothing better. Nobody can doubt that a really first-class hotel, would at once engross the better class of passengers, traveling and local. Nor can it be denied that if a first-class hotel were to be command much better prices than those now charged." People everywhere, and especially travelers and souvenirs, are always willing to pay a good price for good service. It is very foolish to say that because a hotel is not a first-class hotel it cannot be made to pay.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat, a "straight" republican paper, which gives most support to Mr. Blaine in 1884, says it believes the Republicans can elect Mr. Cleveland in 1888. "But," it adds, "they certainly cannot do it if they again confront him with the candidate whom they put in the field in 1884." The same paper says that "the wise Republicans will realize now that Cleveland will be the democratic standard bearer a year hence and be governed accordingly."

Chicago can't have even a municipal election without working up an interest in it all parts of the country. Carter Harrison, who has been mayor many years, sees that there is no hope for re-election, and therefore makes a virtue of withdrawing from the service of the people, and as the socialists and anarchists, who have before supplied 42,000 democratic votes, are now "going it alone," nobody wants the democratic nomination.

The New York Daily Times is a prominent paper, and says: "All you have to do is to get Cleveland nominated and then it is easy to do." The term of Mr. M. B. Post, Jr., has expired, and he, having aspired as one of the executive committee to be elected for the term of three years, was elected to follow Mr. B. L. T. Moore, of the New York Tribune, as chairman of the executive committee. He is a son of the late Senator Moore, and is a member of the New York bar.

Another St. Louis paper says: "It is a fact that the St. Louis and St. Paul hotels are to be transferred to the New York bar, and I would say that the New York bar is to be transferred to the St. Louis and St. Paul bar."

It seems to afford amusement to esteemed contemporaries to quote what THE OREGONIAN said on various subjects years ago. Nobody, however, quotes or remembers what they said years ago.

If Blaine and Hill should be chosen of their respective parties next year who would get the swing-vote? The bare thought of this situation makes the Eastern megawamps shudder.

These Soldiers' Homes generally include, besides the home building proper, officers' residences, hospital, amusement hall, bakery, laundry, printing office, library, various shops, garage, farm houses and barns. The soldiers' home at Togus, Me., has a larger beer saloon, which is a profit in state but the government owns the premises and of course has a right of control according to government regulations, subject to state interference. The saloon is for the patronage of the home invalids only, and any veteran who abuses the privilege of the saloon is punished by confinement in the lockup or the loss of some privilege. The state of Maine treats her own veterans liberally, and the action of the legislature '86, '87, was appropriate for dedicating monuments to the men of Maine who fell on that great field and a

\$100,000 pension bill was passed to meet deserving cases of veterans that are not now reached by the federal pension acts. The state pension of Maine is now \$25.00.

Why should not all the states imitate Maine and take care of the comparatively few deserving veterans who are not in receipt of federal pensions? New England, New York, Pennsylvania and Illinois have done a good deal in this direction. In this way the annual flight of claim agent losses in the lobby of congress would be stopped and the saving of a swindling pension bill stopped. Already the state government is put to a charge of over \$75,000 a year for pensions, or, more or less twice the amount the cost of our regular army, which is but \$30,000,000, and it seems but fair that the states should take care of that small number of worthy veterans who are not already recipients of federal pensions, because they have not been disabled in the military service. Up to July 1, 1886, pensions were granted by general law to 60,000 veterans and to 2000 persons by special acts, and from 18 to 1 to July 1, 1886, the sum of \$800,000, had been paid out of the public revenue to pensioners, besides the large sum spent by the government for the eternal support and increase of national solders' homes. It does seem as if the various states could look after their proper veterans who deserve it.

The society's officers and executive committee are in a useful service in the various departments of the state.

The roll of membership is fuller in every branch than the active efforts of Mr. C. H. Woodard of the Oregonian. The annual meeting of the society was held at the Coliseum in the rear corner of the block where the Oregonian is located last evening. H. L. Holt presiding. After the minutes of the last election, were read and approved by President H. L. Holt the report.

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